

YOUTH SERVICES POLICY

Title: Pre-Release Program Next Annual Review Date: 06/15/2012	Type: B. Classification, Sentencing and Service Functions Sub Type: 8. Youth Related Services Number: B.8.11
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References: La. R.S. 15:827; La. R.S. 42:33; Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. App. 453); ACA Standards 2-CO-4G-01 (Administration of Correctional Agencies), 4-JCF-5I-01 and 4-JCF-5I-02; (Performance-Based Standards for Juvenile Correctional Facilities); YS Policies A.2.27 "Selective Service Registration", B.2.1 "Assignment, Reassignment, Release and Discharge of Youth", B.2.2 "Youth Classification System and Treatment Procedures", B.2.13 "Early Release", and C.4.2 "Social Security Benefits"	
STATUS: Approved	
Approved By: Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary	Date of Approval: 06/15/2011

I. AUTHORITY:

Deputy Secretary of Youth Services as contained in La. R.S. 36:405. Deviation from this policy must be approved by the Deputy Secretary.

II. PURPOSE:

To establish uniform procedures for a structured pre-release program for youth.

III. APPLICABILITY:

Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Deputy Assistant Secretaries, Facility Directors, Regional Managers, and contract Providers.

IV. POLICY:

It is the Deputy Secretary's policy that pre-release programs be established at each secure care facility to prepare efficient and effective aid to releasing youth in order to facilitate a successful transition and reintegration from secure care to the community.

V. PROCEDURES:

A. Each Facility Director shall be responsible for developing procedures governing release preparation to include a comprehensive program of transition services for youth who are soon to be released from secure care. The Pre-Release Program process shall begin a minimum of 90 days prior to youth's release/full-term date. The program shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Groups addressing concerns of soon-to-be released youth;
2. Individual counseling focusing on the youth's particular needs;

3. Job information services;
 4. Identification of youth who are potentially eligible to receive Social Security Administration benefits and provide assistance with making application to receive such benefits;
 5. Referral to the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, Selective Service System for youth between the ages of 18 and 25, who must register within 30 days after being released;
 6. The contracted healthcare provider shall make referrals to available government mental health and medical assistance agencies and programs, if needed, and inform OJJ staff concerning these needs.
 7. Referral to available educational, vocational, job training and counseling centers, if needed; and
 8. Such other services as the Facility Director deems to be consistent with the goals of their program.
- B. The program shall also include pre-release contacts by Probation and Parole Officers/Juvenile during regional staffings to prepare the youth for release.
- C. A Reintegration/Transition Plan shall be developed to incorporate the plan to meet all of the above referenced needs upon release.

Previous Regulation/Policy Number: B.8.11
Previous Effective Date: 05/28/2009
Attachments/References: